[Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.]

feet per week. Tenders for plant and machinery have been received for scrutiny and contracts for the supply will be fixed up before the close of the current year. The Transmission line survey is over. Tenders for supply and erection will be taken up for consideration early next year. The building works at Kotamangalam and Pallom are nearing completion. A provision of Rs 20·57 lakhs has been made for the next year, as detailed in Appendix J to the budget estimates.

38. *State Life Insurance.*—The scheme of Public Insurance, about which mention was made in my speech last year, was introduced with effect from 1st Meenam last. Unlike the official branch of the State Life Insurance, which provides only for the endowment scheme of insurance payable at 55 years of age, the Public Branch provides for various kinds of insurance schemes, such as endowment policies payable at different ages, life policies and children's endowment policies. Though the Public Insurance started work only very recently, it has already proved itself to be popular with the insuring public and proposals for about Rs 5 lakhs have been received during the short period of 4 months. There is every reason to hope that the scheme will be successful from a financial point of view.

39. *Provident Fund.*—The State Provident Fund which was introduced in Meenam 1107 has proved itself to be popular. The number of subscribers has risen to about 6500 from 4300 in Karkatakam last. The Fund is expected to have a closing balance of about Rs 1·67 lakhs at the end of the current year.

40. *Government Rubber Factory.*—It is proposed to open a Rubber Factory at Chackai, Trivandrum, at an estimated cost of Rs 3 lakhs, of which Rs 2 lakhs will be required for the purchase of machinery and Rs 1 lakh for buildings and working capital. A sum of Rs 15,000 will be spent during the current year and a sum of Rs 2·55 lakhs is proposed to be allotted for the next year under "Investment Account." In view of the good quality of the rubber produced in the State, the facilities for transport, the cheap and educated labour available and the protective duty on all imported rubber goods, it is hoped that the factory would work at a reasonable profit and prove conducive to the economic prosperity of the State.

41. *The Travancore Sugars.*—Government have an investment to the extent of about Rs 4 lakhs, in the shape of shares in and advances to the Travancore Sugars Ltd., Tuckalai. The factory was handed over to Mr. N. S. T. Chari for management from 1st July 1933 and the concern earned a profit of about Rs 70,000

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